

*The Revd. Mr. Gifford
from the author*

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O D E,

Sacred to the MEMORY of

THE LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE

GEORGE Lord LYTTELTON.

*Ut vultus hominum, ita simulacra vultus imbecilla ac mortalia sunt;
forma mentis æterna — quidquid amavimus, quidquid mirati sumus,
manet, mansurumque est in animis hominum, in æternitate tem-
porum, fama rerum.*

TACITUS.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. DODSLEY, in PALL-MALL.

M.DCC.LXXIII.

O D E

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF

THE LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE

GEORGE LORD LYTTLETON.

By order of the Trustees of the British Museum, printed at the expense of the British Museum, in the year 1825.

TACTUS.



L O N D O N :

Printed by J. Dodson, in Pall-Mall.

MDCCLXXIII.

T O
Mrs. MONTAGU.

MADAM,

THE following Ode is a genuine Tribute of Respect to the Memory of the illustrious Nobleman whose Name it bears, and in whom the Public has just suffered a Loss, which I had almost called irreparable; this or any other Age or Nation having seldom enjoyed many Men at the same Time, endowed with so great, so useful, so amiable Qualifications.

It was long the Complaint of the Literati of this Nation, that although we possessed excellent Authors in

Philosophy, Theology, and every other Branch both of Science and Belles Lettres, yet that History had been little cultivated among us; insomuch that our own, though abounding in Events more interesting, not only to ourselves but to Mankind in general, than that of any other Nation, had not found Writers by any Means adequate to the Dignity of their Subject. Lord Bacon, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and Lord Clarendon, had indeed written the History of particular Reigns with distinguished Merit and Applause, but none of those Noblemen (though two of them were by their Profession more especially led to it) had thrown any considerable Light on the most interesting Part of the Subject, the Constitution of our Government. This was reserved for the noble Lord, whose Death the Public now so universally laments. In his History of Henry the Second, (at the same Time that by his historical Merit he hath shewn us that the venerable Writers of Greece and Rome, Thucydides, Polybius, Livy, Tacitus, are not inimitable) his Lordship has made the most learned Researches into the antient Constitution of this Kingdom, and for that Purpose most judiciously chose that Æra, when

when, though the feudal Institutions as yet prevailed in their full Strength and Vigor, yet the Restoration of the Saxon Laws, (after which the Body of the Nation ardently panted) was already begun by the Necessity the latter Princes of the Norman Race (and Henry the Second, who was descended also from the Saxon Monarchs) had been under, of courting the People during their Contests with * each other, or with their powerful Vassals.

His Lordship's Work is therefore as much to be considered in a political and patriotic, as in an historical Light; and it is in this View that I have introduced the Genius of Britain as pointing out to the Noble Historian the Country from whence the Saxon Hordes, who invaded England, came

* Particularly Henry I. the Empress Matilda, Stephen, and Henry II. The Necessity here mentioned, with other concurring Circumstances, threw such Weight into the popular Scale, as lead, by a long but very discernable Chain of Causes and Effects, to the great Blows afterwards given to the aristocratical Principles of the feudal System, by which the Way was laid open to those just Doctrines of Government which produced the ever glorious Revolution, when that solemn Compact between the King and People, which had so long been treated by Prerogative Writers as a mere Phantasm, was absolutely established, and the same Act of the Legislature (the very Title of which is The Glory of England, as being unparalleled in the Annals of any other Nation) comprised the two greatest Objects of Legislation, by "declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and settling the Succession of the Crown." 1 W. & M. St. 2. C. 2.

came, and the free Constitution they enjoyed, in their native Woods, and also brought with them hither : all which, seen in any other Light, would be an useless and unconnected Digression.

On this Ground, Madam, I deprecate the Severity of the critical Reader : But I am at a Loss to find an Apology for the Liberty I have taken in prefixing your Name to this Trifle. I must rely upon your Friendship for the noble Lord who is the Subject of it, and upon the distinguished Affability and Condescension, which are constantly experienced by those who are honored with your Acquaintance.

I am,

With the greatest Respect,

MADAM,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

A N
O D E,

Sacred to the M E M O R Y of

THE LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE

GEORGE Lord LYTTELTON.

I.

OFT hath the Muse for private Woe
Suffer'd her pearly Tear to flow,
Oft heaved her pensive Sighs ;
The Public now demands her Reed,
For mingled with the mighty Dead,
The good ALETHES lies.

II.

Noble by Rank, — each Ray from thence,
Chance may to meaner Souls dispense,
Reflected shone more bright ;
No borrow'd Plume adorn'd his Name,
His Virtues and his solid Fame
Charm'd by their native Light.

Of

III.

Of LEARNING useful, pure, and true,
From SCIENCE' genuine Founts he drew
Sincere and copious Draughts;
Draughts which invigorate the Heart,
The Thirst of latent Truth impart,
And elevate the Thoughts.

IV.

Thence, by BRITANNIA'S GENIUS led,
He sought the antient Fountain-Head
From whence her Freedom flows;
Trac'd from their small and latent Cause
The Constitution of those Laws,
Whence all her Glories rose.

V.

He saw where in the * Cimbric Wood,
Of wild Appearance, Habit rude,
The hardy GOTHIC Tribes,
Dreading no Tyrants haughty Frown,
Boasting of Liberty alone,
Knew neither Force nor Bribes.

By

* According to the best Authorities, the Saxons came from the Cimbrica Chernonesus,
now Jutland, v. Sheringham de orig. Ang. gent. &c. &c.

VI.

By Nature equal Man to Man,
Consent first form'd Subjection's Plan,
Rais'd on Utility ;
An equal Government, where all,
Though subject to the general Call,
Were to each other free.

VII.

* Where Monarchs, subject to Controll,
(As greater Servants of the Whole)
No hurtful Power enjoy'd ;
† And general Councils, open, free,
(Where each propos'd with Liberty)
The Public Arm employ'd.

VIII.

He saw the SAXONS, just and brave,
Conquering but that they might save,
This generous Plan extend ;
In War and wild Destruction's Spite,
The Flame of Liberty burns bright,
Nor Arms its Pow'r suspend.

B

In

* V. Tacit. de M. G. Cap. 7.

† Wittenagemotes, the Origin of our Parliaments.

(x)

IX.

In vain a wild and wicked Crew
The glorious Flame a While subdue,
By base and lawless Pow'r ;
* Not long their Subtilty avail'd,
Truth, Justice, Freedom, soon prevail'd,
And NORMANS reign'd no more !

X.

So when some River's gentle Force
Through flow'ry Meadows in its Course
Meandring winds its Way,
If Chance a Mound its Stream oppose,
That once o'erthrown, it boldly flows
In Torrents toward the Sea.

XI.

Reviving FREEDOM's early Morn,
With magic Pencil to adorn,
To paint it's welcome Rays,

Was

* The feudal Doctrine, that the Monarch was Proprietor of the Soil, was introduced into England from Normandy, where it really was true, the Province of Neustria or Normandy being given by Charles the Simple to Rollo, as his Daughter's Portion ; but in England there could be no such Property, the Lands being held by the Saxons, without any Tenure or Services, except the Trinoda Necessitas ; so that this Doctrine was imposed upon the English by Deceit, from whence the Distinction to this Day of Land " in Fee" and " in Demesne as of Fee." V. Spelman of Feuds, and his other Works.

Was his — A manly Theme to chuse,
Successful court th' Historic Muse,
And gain immortal Praise.

XII.

To paint great HENRY's potent Sway,
(Whilst Ireland and proud France obey,
Though Becket's Crimes disturb)
Stronger from Liberties * confirm'd
The People's Pow'r, the Monarch arm'd
Rome's haughty Priest to curb.

XIII.

Not only by the learned Page,
He claim'd Attention from the Age,
To FREEDOM's Godlike Form;
Oft in the SENATE on his Tongue
Her manly Sentiments have hung,
With Oratory warm!

B 2

When

* Henry the Second confirmed the Laws of Edward the Confessor by Charter, v. Blackstone's Introduction to Magna Charta.

XIV.

When Ministers have dar'd to stray
In Tyranny's enticing Way,
Oft he'd the Stream oppose ;
Oft hath he stood BRITANNIA's Friend,
Her great PALLADIUM to defend,
Oft overthrown her Foes.

XV.

Nor less (if Fame report aright)
The softer Graces did unite
To adorn his manly Sense ;
The Graces of a generous Mind,
Soft Pity, Love of human Kind,
And wide Beneficence.

XVI.

And often did the gentle Muse,
At his Request, her Smiles diffuse
Around his learn'd Retreat ;
When * Lucy's Name in sweetest Song,
HAGLEY thy Woods and Groves among,
The Ecchoes wont repeat !

How

* Miss Lucy Fortescue, his Lordship's first Wife.

XVII.

How sweetly o'er his Lucy's † Bier,
 Harmonious fell the gentle Tear,
 How mark'd with generous Woe!
 Less sweet ‡ Petrarcha were thy Strains,
 When thou for Laura taught'st the Plains
 And Woods in Tears to flow!

XVIII.

Around his Bier the Muses mourn,
 With civic Wreaths his Bust adorn,
 And heave their melting Sighs;
 With them, in fable Vestments, stand,
 A small but venerable Band,
 The Virtuous and the Wise!

Canst

† A Monody on the Death of that Lady, written by his Lordship, v. Dodsley's Coll.
 v. 2.

‡ One of the most pleasing of the Italian Poets; he was in Love with Laura Colonna,
 a Lady of extraordinary Beauty, and wrote two Books of Sonnets, one during her Life,
 the other upon her Death, of which the latter is much preferred.

XIX.

(Canst thou Lothario view this Scene,

And yet continue in thy Dream,

Of grovelling Pleasures low?

Behold what Honours Virtue wait,

But know, by Nature and by Fate,

Vice brings on only Woe!)

XX.

Pardon thou high exalted Mind,

(Who to thy Lucy now art join'd)

Pardon the feeble Verse;

Pardon that I, unknown to Fame,

So fling a Wreath as this should frame,

To hang upon thy Hearse.

XXI.

If, by divine Permission giv'n,

Immortal Spirits, though in Heav'n,

Have Influence here below;

When Vice undaunted stalks the Stage,

Still, still repress his haughty Rage,

Still Virtue teach to glow.

Still

XXII.

Still, still remain BRITANNIA's Friend,

Thy generous Patronage extend,

(Ah let our Prayers move)

Still watch thou o'er her tott'ring State,

Preserve that LIBERTY from Fate,

Thou still must firmly love!

F I N I S H

XXII

Still, all remain Britannia's friends
The generous language extend
(Ah! let our prayers move)
Still watch thou our harrowing
Protective that liberty from
Thou still must firmly love

